

Patricia A. Vaughan

Post Office Box 83

Jonesville, Texas

75659-0083

December 28, 2011

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman Ruth Goldway
c/o Secretary of the Postal Regulatory Commission
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D. C. 20268-001

Dear Chairman Goldway:

As a seventy year customer of the Jonesville, Texas post office, I am appealing the decision of the United States Postal Service to close the Jonesville Post Office which has been providing service to this small rural community for more than one hundred sixty years. The post office provides irreplaceable services to the Jonesville community; its closure would cause severe negative impact to those who depend on it. Most residents do not have internet access and still depend on mail service to conduct their business and personal communication. The post office is the center of the community.

I request that the decision to close the Jonesville post office be reversed for the following reasons:

--Financial information used to justify the decision to close this post office was misleading. The *Invitation for Comments on the Proposal to Close the Jonesville, TX Post Office and Establish Service by Rural Route Service* as posted in the lobby of the Jonesville, TX Post Office beginning on August 23, 2011 stated "...The revenue and/or the volume of this office has been in steady decline over the past several years." "...Revenue has seen a slight increase over the last several years. The revenue trend is as follows: FY 07 \$15,783, FY 08 \$17,781, FY 09 \$18,816, FY 10 \$25,120." These two sentences are in direct conflict with one another. Revenue cannot be both "in steady decline" and "have seen a slight increase". The stated revenue trend shows an increase in revenue of \$9,337 or 59% over a period of three years. Jonesville Post Office should be commended and celebrated for such an increase!

--Post office expenses have been cut substantially by cutting rental fees in half. Even though it took several months for the USPS to accept the offer, the savings in rent will cut expenses by \$3,600 per year.

--If other suggestions for cutting expenses are accepted, the Postal Service can realize additional savings. Suggestions included a) shortening service time by two hours per day; increasing box rent to enhance income; increasing postage to cover more of the actual cost to deliver mail; considering that our postal worker receives a lower wage than that stated in the

documents provided; and applying Jonesville Post Office Revenue to operation of the Jonesville Post Office. With minor changes, this post office will generate more income than it costs to operate. It can be a money maker for USPS. It would be a serious mistake financially to close this post office!

--Residents and postal customers who do not rent post office boxes were not notified of their opportunities for input in the closure process. Many who do not rent boxes use the Jonesville Post Office to purchase stamps, mail packages, and for other services because of its convenient location and efficient service.

--No appropriate alternative means of mail delivery that will "provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to (this) rural area" has been provided. Mail service to roadside mailboxes is not a safe and acceptable alternative; important business mail left in roadside mailboxes is subject to theft which is not a threat at secure mailboxes in the post office. Neither is driving to a post office in another community an acceptable alternative. It would impose an undue burden on many residents.

--Proposed solutions will create inconveniences in purchasing stamps and money orders and in sending and receiving certified or registered mail or packages.

I am writing on behalf of four entities all of which are customers of the Jonesville Post Office:

--The Jonesville Foundation, P. O. Box 240, a private not-for-profit foundation which funds educational programs in the community. I am president and treasurer.

--T. C. Lindsey and Company, P. O. Box 34, a historic general store which has been in business in Jonesville since 1847. I am a business partner and part owner.

--The Estate of S. F. Vaughan, P. O. Box 84. I am independent executrix.

--Myself, Patricia A. Vaughan, P. O. Box 83.

Your consideration of this request to stop the closure and discontinuance of the Jonesville Post Office and zip code 75659 will be greatly appreciated. I understand that the Postal Service needs to cut expenses and to increase revenue to make up for changes in our economy and ways of doing business. Eliminating this small rural post office will not help in that effort, and it will cause an undue burden on the residents of this historic community.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Vaughan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia A. Vaughan